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comprising the step of deriving a measure for the light power emitted by the diode from a combination of the forward current and forward voltage of the diode, based on the assumption that at a constant light power the forward voltage is a function of the forward current.

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5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein in the case of a constant forward voltage at a constant light power and an increasing diode current this correlation is established by directly connecting the diode to a constant voltage source.

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11. A method for determining the forward voltage of a diode, selected from the group consisting of a light emitting diode and a laser diode, as a function of the diode current at a constant light power, comprising the steps of: varying the temperature of the diode using a heating or cooling device; determining the emitted light power by means of a photodetector; and maintaining the emitted light power at a constant level by means of a control device and wherein the values of the forward voltage and the diode current are measured at various temperatures.

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